

Message Text

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70

ACTION IO-10

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H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5370

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, PO

SUBJ: HIGH LEVEL ATTENDANCE AT 30TH REGULAR SESSION UNGA

REFS: (A) STATE 174996

(B) LISBON 4936

1. EMBOFF MET WITH FONOFF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS, PERNAO MANUEL VIEIRA ON SEPTEMBER 11. VIEIRA STATED FONOFF WITHOUT LEADERSHIP ENDING RESOLUTION OF GOVERNMENT CRISIS. HE UNABLE TO PROVIDE PROGNOSIS REGARDING PROBABLE PORTUGUESE ATTITUDES DURING 30TH REGULAR SESSION UNGA UNTIL NEW POLITICAL LEADERSHIP INSTALLED.

2. AS EXAMPLE OF CURRENT SITUATION, VIEIRA CITED INCIDENT OF MORNING OF SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 WHEN HE PASSED WORD TO EMBASSY ON COMPOSITION OF PORTUGUESE DELEGATION TO 7TH SPECIAL SESSION UNGA AS SOON AS IT WAS CONFIRMED (REF B). LATER SAME DAY MINISTER ABRUPTLY CANCELLED TRAVEL PLANS DUE TO RESIGNATION OF FIFTH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. ALSO, THE APPOINTMENT OF NEW PORTUGUESE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO UNITED NATIONS HAS BEEN PENDING SINCE TENURE OF 4TH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT AND POSITION WILL REMAIN UNFILLED UNTIL 6TH GOVERNMENT INSTALLED. NAMING OF PORTUGUESE DELEGATION TO 30TH SESSION UNGA ALSO AWAITING NEW GOVERNMENT.

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3. VIEIRA IS 1974 GRADUATE OF NATO DEFENSE COLLEGE, ROME, AND SEEMS WELL DISPOSED, SUBJECT TO EVENTUAL POLITICAL GUIDANCE FROM SUPERIORS. HE STATED PORTUGAL WISHES TO MAINTAIN "BALANCE" IN UN STANCE. WHEN EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT PORTUGAL'S BALANCE DURING 29TH UNGA SESSION WAS 23 VOTES WITH U.S., 69 WITH USSR, 54 WITH BOTH US AND USSR, AND 41 WITH NEITHER, HE WAS APPRECIATIVE OF COMPARISON WHICH HE INDICATED WOULD BE USEFUL AMMUNITION FOR HIM IN FONOFF.
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